

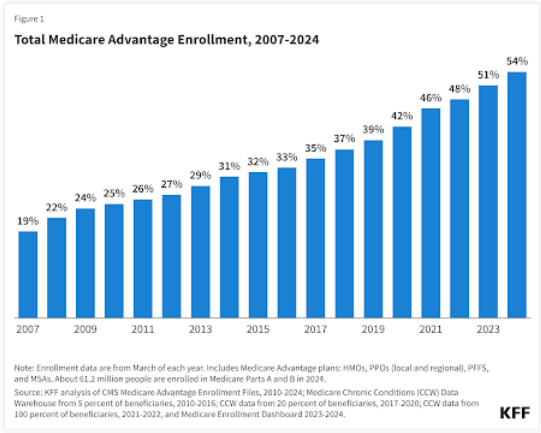
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Tuesday, April 8, 2025

More Advantage?



There was a point a few years back in which UCOP folks wanted to move everyone under UC's retiree health plan to a Medicare Advantage plan - a privatized form of Medicare that now covers more than half of Medicare recipients - because the plans are cheap compared to traditional Medicare supplements. It appears that they are cheap because the feds overpay the private insurers who offer these plans. Congress seems to be gaining awareness of this issue. But whether it will produce a dramatic response is unclear. From the [NY Times](#):

Dr. Mehmet Oz, the celebrity TV doctor, was confirmed along party lines by the Senate to lead the Medicare and Medicaid Services, which insures nearly half of all Americans. The future of both programs is the subject of fierce debate: Republicans are contemplating dramatic cuts to Medicaid, which serves low-income Americans, and Oz has been a vocal proponent of Medicare Advantage, the private insurance plans for older Americans, despite concerns that insurers are being overpaid...



Full story at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/04/03/us/trump-news-updates/9f263010-32b1-5ce4-bd1a-fa57f7f93486?smid=url-share>.

If Congress cracked down, the seeming attractiveness of the Medicare Advantage option in UC retiree health would diminish. But with Oz in charge...

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, politics, uc retirement, UCOP

Monday, April 7, 2025

All's Well That Reels Well

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Concerns Regarding UCOP Cybersecurity Mandate
- CUCFA and AFT call upon UC to immediately address Student Visa Revocations
- Federal Investigations of UC Faculty Members
- We Support AB-672, A First Step Towards Protecting PERB's Authority
- Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon

Remaking the University

- Will the California State Legislature Accept Governor Newsom's Manufactured Austerity for Four-Year Higher Education? (Guest Post) - 4/28/2025
- Are Universities Preparing to Fight Back? (Guest Post) - 4/25/2025
- National Day of Action: Who Rules the Academy, and How To Fight Back (Guest Post) - 4/23/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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On the same day (yesterday) that the chancellor posted about immigration visas being cancelled,* someone else in whatever office does PR for UCLA put out a sunny Facebook "reel" which you can see below. Just noting the juxtaposition...

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=1687228105234477>.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/04/immigration-update.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:18 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Federal Student Aid May Be Unavailable - Part 2 (What could possibly go wrong?)

From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

The responsibilities of acting under secretary James Bergeron doubled as the Department of Education announced Wednesday that he will not only oversee the regulatory duties related to higher ed but manage the entire Office of Federal Student Aid.

Even in the wake of major layoffs, FSA remains the largest office in the department. It oversees the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA], the allocation of Pell Grants and—at least for now—management of the \$1.7 trillion student loan portfolio...



Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/04/03/fsa-executive-retires-and-acting-under-secretary-takes-over>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

The Alternative Way to Read the Blog

Every quarter, we backup the blog as pdf files which provide and alternative way of reading it or printing it out.

Of course, video and audio embedded in the blog will be unavailable using that option. But you can always go to the particular blog posting to obtain the video or audio.

For the first quarter of 2025, the reading/printing option is at:

<https://archive.org/details/blog-jan-31-19-2025>

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [miscellaneous](#)

With NIL, who gets to Control the Lion's Share: Maybe Not Lyons

From [SFGATE](#): For the first time since 2011, there's a growing anxiety among Cal fans about the future of their football program that stems directly from what Andrew Luck is doing at Stanford.

Two board members of California Legends Collective — the Golden Bears' only third-party name, image and likeness collective — have announced that they will no longer personally donate to the organization they oversee until the school meets their singular demand: Put newly hired general manager, and former NFL head coach, Ron Rivera fully in charge of Cal football.

This drastic move comes at a rather interesting time in the program's history. Over the past four years, the Golden Bears have been better on the gridiron than the Cardinal in almost every conceivable way. The four-year Cal graduates at spring commencement will be the first class since 2006 to experience a total sweep over Stanford in the Big Game. To top it all off, the school brought in Rivera on March 20 as its first football general manager.

But given the emerging circumstances in Palo Alto, the state of the program is still not good enough.

"We all have to acknowledge that we haven't achieved everything we wanted to achieve," Kevin Kennedy, president of California Legends Collective, told [SFGATE](#). "So the story is still being written. We're still working to kind of create the most competitive team possible — and teams possible — and, honestly, have Cal's athletic success match academic excellence."

The return of Rivera, a decorated former Cal athlete, could have universally been considered a momentous occasion for the Golden Bears. But in some Cal fans' minds, it was ruined by their archivalists across the bay. After hiring Luck back in November to be general manager of Cardinal football, Stanford shared that the former quarterback would be above then-head coach Troy Taylor on the organization chart, which ESPN called "an innovative turn in how football operations work." Luck then flexed that muscle when he fired Taylor after an ESPN report came out revealing investigations into employee complaints about Taylor's workplace behavior toward women. There's no ambiguity about Luck's role and what he's in charge of over at Stanford.

However, that innovation didn't make its way to Berkeley. When Cal announced the Rivera hire four months later, the release noted that the two-time NFL Coach of the Year will report to chancellor Rich Lyons. Head coach Justin Wilcox, meanwhile, will continue to report to athletic director Jim Knowlton. This ruffled more than a few feathers among Cal's donor community.

"You don't hire Mario Andretti and ask him to sit in the passenger seat, right?" said Kennedy, who's been with the collective since the NIL era began in 2021. "There's a reason that you bring someone like that on staff. In order to give him control." In the days following the announcement, Kennedy was one of two California Legends Collective board members to release statements saying that they would withhold their personal donations until UC Berkeley followed Stanford's lead.

Kennedy sent his message to the collective's donor group, which he then shared with [SFGATE](#). After complimenting Lyons and Rivera for getting this hire done, Kennedy wrote that he wasn't fond of the lack of clarity surrounding the organizational structure of the football program. While Stanford's announcement clearly stated that football would be under Luck's direction and control, Cal's, per Kennedy, left too many unaddressed concerns. For instance, how can Rivera oversee football if no one actually reports to him?

Source: <https://www.sfgate.com/collegesports/article/cal-donors-standoff-with-athletic-department-20253399.php>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [athletics](#), [Stanford](#), [UC Berkeley](#)

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Immigration Update



From an email today:

Dear Bruin Community:

In recent days, a number of international students on F-1 status at universities across the nation have had their visas revoked and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) status

terminated by the federal government. These actions have understandably created a great deal of questions within our Bruin community. As your chancellor, I will always strive to keep you informed on important situations. To that end, here is what we currently know:

During a routine audit of SEVIS records, UCLA officials learned that the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) had terminated the SEVIS status of six current students. SEVP also terminated the status of six former students currently participating in the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program. These numbers are fluid and may change.

The termination notices indicate that all terminations were due to violations of the terms of the individuals' visa programs. At this time, UCLA is not aware of any federal law enforcement activity on campus related to these terminations.

We recognize that these actions can bring feelings of tremendous uncertainty and anxiety to our community. We want our immigrant and international UCLA students, staff and faculty to know we support your ability to work, learn, teach and thrive here. As UCLA leaders and I wrote in our March 12 letter to our Bruin community: You are not alone. You belong at UCLA, and you are an essential part of our community. In that message, we shared resources and support that are available to you. I encourage students to make use of UCLA's Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars. For the latest information on federal actions and available resources, please visit UCLA's federal updates web page and the UC systemwide federal updates web page. Additional resources appear below.

I continue to meet almost daily with UC President Michael Drake and my fellow chancellors in the UC system to prepare for — and respond to — any federal policy changes. I am also in constant contact with senior leaders on campus. We remain committed to supporting our students as we abide by the law. We will continue to keep you updated on pertinent developments with the safety and well-being of our Bruin community remaining our utmost priority.

In challenging times like this, we need to stay informed and stay connected. Let's work together and remember: We are One UCLA.

Sincerely,

Julio Frenk

Chancellor

Posted by California Policy Issues at [8:42 PM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [UCLA](#)

Everything seems to be deferred



UC has a problem with the governor's proposal to "defer" the promised increase in its state budget allocation. [CalMatters](#) has a piece on the problem of deferred maintenance in public higher ed:

...Lawmakers included UC and Cal State in an early version of Proposition 2, a school bond measure approved last November, but the university systems were eventually left out to limit the amount of bond money voters were asked to

approve. At the UC, where total capital needs are expected to grow to \$30.7 billion by 2030, system leaders said they were disappointed to be left off the state bond despite 18 months of lobbying the Legislature.

"Going forward, UC will be exploring other options to address our construction, renewal and deferred maintenance needs," wrote UC spokesperson Heather Hanson via email...

Full story at <https://calmatters.org/education/2025/04/deferred-maintenance-cal-state-uc/>.

As we noted in our review of the most recent Regents meetings, UC is hoping to become part of a possible housing bond.* Whether that happens is uncertain. And the degree to which such funding could be used for deferred maintenance on student housing is also unclear.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/04/watch-regents-meeting-of-march-20-2025.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [governor](#), [politics](#), [State Budget](#)

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